

The report on the petition of sundry inhabitants of Pennsylvania and Jersey, was read the second time, agreeably to the order of the day, and unanimously concurred with.

Mr. Scott, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to lay off a road from Newmarket, in Kent county, to Isaac Perkins's mill, in said county; which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act to enlarge the powers of the high court of chancery. ORDERED, That Mr. Scott, Mr. Wright and Mr. Duvall, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Duvall, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report :

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Elizabeth Dorsey, executrix of Thomas Dorsey, of Anne-Arundel county, report, that they have taken the same into their consideration, and on a full, fair, and candid investigation of the subject, are decidedly of opinion that it was the intention of the legislature, by their resolution of November session, 1790, to grant what the petitioner now prays for, that is, that the state will relinquish their right and interest in the bonds mentioned in the petition to her, and let her have the benefit of retaining the value of them out of the estate of her late husband; and the committee further report, that doubts being entertained whether the said resolution can be of benefit to the petitioner, she has returned all the said bonds into the public treasury, where they now remain, uncanceled and in full force, to be disposed of at the pleasure of the legislature.

The committee are therefore of opinion, that measures ought to be adopted to carry the intention of the general assembly, at their last session, into full effect; and for this purpose, that leave be given to bring in a bill for the relief of the petitioner.

All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

C. WAYMAN, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED, That Mr. Duvall, Mr. Ridgely, of Wm. and Mr. Wright, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Love, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the benefit of John Sewell; which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

The bill to enable the inhabitants of Durham parish, in Charles county, to elect vestrymen and churchwardens for said parish, was read the second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

Mr. Lowes, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to enable the inhabitants of Stepney parish, in Somerset county, to elect vestrymen and churchwardens for said parish; which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

Mr. Scott, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act to enlarge the powers of the high court of chancery; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Douglass and Mr. Ratcliff have leave of absence.

Mr. Wright, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a report on the petition of the inhabitants of Sassafras Neck, in Cecil county; which was read.

The bill to make better provision for the appointment and qualification of constables, and for other purposes, was read the second time and passed.

Mr. Duvall, one of the members of the committee of grievances, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report :

THE committee of grievances and courts of justice report, that Ezekiel John Dorsey, of Baltimore county, and Edward Dorsey, son of Edward, of Anne-Arundel county, have laid before the committee complaints against the society in Baltimore county for the abolition of slavery, for their improper interference with the slaves of the complainants.

They have stated and proved to the satisfaction of the committee, that Ezekiel John Dorsey was possessed of a mulatto slave named Jonathan, and Edward Dorsey of a slave (who is brother to Jonathan) named David; that they purchased them as slaves seven or eight years ago, and neither of them ever claimed any title to freedom until the month of January, 1790, when they eloped from their masters service and got into the possession of the society.

That the said slaves preferred petitions for their freedom in the criminal court of Baltimore county, and the complainants entered into the usual recognizance to see them forthcoming, and to permit them to attend court when necessary; they thereupon took them home, and in a few days the slave of Ezekiel John Dorsey again absconded, and returned to Baltimore-town with a complaint of ill treatment, which was inquired into, and the slave ordered to return to his master's service, but complaining that he was sick, he was permitted to remain in the custody of the society for twelve months, upon their entering into a recognizance to pay Mr. Dorsey for his labour, if, on a final hearing of the cause, he should be adjudged a slave; and he remained for a twelvemonth in possession of the society. That the complainants, in defending the suits thus instituted and carried on under the countenance and direction of the society, were put to very great expence in travelling to Pennsylvania, New-Jersey and New-York, to execute commissions and obtain proof to combat the testimony brought forward by the society on behalf of the petitioners.

That at August term, 1790, the counsel for the Messieurs Dorseys urged a trial, which the society endeavoured to procrastinate, by praying another commission to issue, which was granted; but the

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